I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising erythropoietin and an amount of benzethonium chloride effective to inhibit microbial growth in said composition.
- 2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises phenoxyethanol.
- 3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises phenylethyl alcohol.
- 4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%.
- 5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%.
- 6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.005%.
- 7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.01%.
- 8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.02%.
- 9. (Original) The composition of claim 2, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 1.0%.
- 10. (Original) The composition of claim 2, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about .75%.
- 11. (Original) The composition of claim 2, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 12. (Original) The composition of claim 2, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.5%.
- 13. (Original) The composition of claim 2, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of about 0.01% and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of about 0.5%.

- 14. (Original) The composition of claim 3, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.02%, and phenylethyl alcohol in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 15. (Original) The composition of claim 3, further defined as comprising about 0.02% benzethonium chloride and about 0.25% phenylethyl alcohol.
- 16. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further defined as comprising a salt.
- 17. (Original) The composition of claim 16, wherein said salt is sodium chloride.
- 18. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further defined as comprising a buffer.
- 19. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein said buffer is sodium phosphate.
- 20. (Original) A pharmaceutical carrier composition for use as a carrier of erythropoietin, wherein said carrier comprises an amount of benzethonium chloride effective to inhibit microbial growth in said composition.
- 21. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, further comprising phenoxyethanol.
- 22. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, further comprising phenylethyl alcohol.
- 23. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%.
- 24. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%.
- 25. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.005%.
- 26. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.01%.
- 27. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.02%.
- 28. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 21, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 1.0%.
- 29. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 21, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about .75%.
- 30. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 21, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.25%.

- 31. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 21, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.5%.
- 32. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 21, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of about 0.01%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of about 0.5%.
- 33. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 22, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.02%, and phenylethyl alcohol in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 34. (Original) The pharmaceutical carrier of claim 20, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of a buffer, a salt, and anti-adsorbent, and a surfactant.
- 35. (Original) A vial for containing multiple dosages of erythropoietin, wherein said vial contains a solution comprising erythropoietin and an amount of benzethonium chloride effective to inhibit microbial growth in said composition.
- 36. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein said solution further comprises phenoxyethanol.
- 37. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein said solution further comprises phenylethyl alcohol.
- 38. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%.
- 39. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%.
- 40. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.005%.
- 41. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.01%.
- 42. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein an effective amount of benzethonium chloride is a concentration of 0.02%.
- 43. (Original) The vial of claim 36, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 1.0%.
- 44. (Original) The vial of claim 36, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about .75%.

- 45. (Original) The vial of claim 36, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 46. (Original) The vial of claim 36, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of 0.5%.
- 47. (Original) The vial of claim 36, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of about 0.01%, and phenoxyethanol in a concentration of about 0.5%.
- 48. (Original) The vial of claim 37, further defined as comprising benzethonium chloride in a concentration of 0.02%, and phenylethyl alcohol in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 49. (Original) The vial of claim 37, further defined as comprising about 0.02% benzethonium chloride and about 0.25% phenylethyl alcohol.
- 50. (Currently Amended) The vial of claim 1-35, wherein said solution further comprises a salt.
- 51. (Original) The vial of claim 50, wherein said salt is sodium chloride.
- 52. (Original) The vial of claim 35, wherein said solution further comprises a buffer.
- 53. (Original) The vial of claim 52, wherein said buffer is sodium phosphate.
- 54. (Original) A method of inhibiting microbial growth in a solution comprising erythropoietin, said method comprising adding benzethonium chloride to said solution.
- 55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said method further comprises adding phenoxyethanol to said solution.
- 56. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said method further comprises adding phenylethyl alcohol to said solution.
- 57. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said benzethonium chloride is added to a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%.
- 58. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said benzethonium chloride is added to a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%.
- 59. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said benzethonium chloride is added to a concentration of 0.005%.
- 60. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said benzethonium chloride is added to a concentration of 0.01%.
- 61. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said benzethonium chloride is added to a concentration of 0.02%.

- 62. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1.0%, and phenoxyethanol is added in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 1.0%.
- 63. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 0.1%, and phenoxyethanol is added in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about .75%.
- 64. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol is added in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 65. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of 0.005%, and phenoxyethanol is added in a concentration of 0.5%.
- 66. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of about 0.01%, and phenoxyethanol is added in a concentration of about 0.5%.
- 67. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of 0.02%, and phenylethyl alcohol is added in a concentration of 0.25%.
- 68. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein benzethonium chloride is added in a concentration of about 0.02%, and henylethyl alcohol is added in a concentration of about 0.25%.
- 69. (Original) The method of claim 54, further comprising adding a salt to said solution.
- 70. (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein said salt is sodium chloride.
- 71. (Original) The method of claim 54, further comprising adding a buffer to said solution.
- 72. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein said buffer is sodium phosphate.